MA in Environmental Resource Policy

The Environmental Resource Policy (ENRP) graduate program at GW offers a multidisciplinary approach to environmental and sustainability studies. Combining perspectives that include science, economics, law, and public policy, ENRP prepares students to enter environmental policy careers in government agencies, non-profit organizations, environmental advocacy groups, think tanks, and the corporate sector.

A Capitol Location

“A unique attribute of ENRP is the ability to network and intern with area organizations and government bodies in Washington, DC.”

—ENRP Graduate, ’12

With the program’s enviable location in the heart of Washington, D.C., students are primed to immerse themselves in work that informs and improves environmental policy. Our students:

• attend lectures, workshops, and seminars on a wide array of environmental policy topics;
• observe environmental policymaking at a Congressional hearing or Supreme Court session;
• explore alternative environmental careers through internships;
• work with government agencies and non-profit groups to complete a capstone project; and
• build a professional network to support career opportunities.

Flexible Program for Working Students

“The small size of the program allows for an easier sharing of ideas and more interaction with the whole group of students. It also gives advisors/professors an opportunity to know each student’s path through the program.”

—ENRP Student

Many of our students maintain full or part-time jobs and internships while seeking their degree. Our flexible program allows them to balance their education with work, family, and personal priorities. And, the incoming class size is small—between 12 and 20 students—facilitating close ties between faculty and students. Our students may:

• enroll full-time or part-time;
• attend evening classes to accommodate work and internship schedules;
• take classes in the summer; and
• meet classmates who share their enthusiasm for environmental policy.

Theory in Action: Practical Experience

“The capstone course adds a real-life experience in terms of problem solving, group dynamics, client interaction, interviews, and report writing—all of which are very useful skills in any field.”

—ENRP Graduate, ’11

Our students apply classroom concepts to real-world policy issues, gain professional experience, and build their resumes with several hands-on opportunities, including:

• a required capstone project in which student teams develop actionable solutions to environmental policy issues for clients such as the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency; and
• academic credit for relevant internships and research.
Multidisciplinary Foundation

“One of the strengths of ENRP is the melding of both the science and policy behind environmental topics.”

—ENRP Graduate, ‘09

While anchored in environmental science, ENRP prepares students for varied career positions by encompassing study in topics relating to environmental law, public policy, research methods and statistics, ecology, biology, and geography. The multidisciplinary approach enables students to:
• develop a deep understanding of complex environmental policy issues;
• identify connections between specific environmental policy issues and the relevant natural science(s);
• build environmental policy on a foundation of science-based evidence, an appreciation of economic incentives, and a clear-eyed understanding of environmental law and politics; and
• learn to frame environmental policy challenges in ways that render them more amenable to solutions.

Customized Curriculum

“I was able to choose a geography course and a public policy course, and both were able to count towards my degree.”

—ENRP Student

With our customized curriculum, students can tailor their degree to fit their interests and career goals. Students may dive deeper into one area—such as urban sustainability or biodiversity—or take a broader perspective by covering multiple environmental topics. Our flexible program allows students to:
• take four elective courses in other GW schools or departments;
• take up to three elective courses at consortium schools including American University, George Mason University, and Georgetown University; and
• use up to three elective credits for internships or research.

Our Alumni

ENRP graduates apply their degrees across varied environmental occupations that drive change toward a sustainable future. Our graduates have gone into positions with the Department of Energy, Environment and Energy Publishing, the Federal Highway Administration, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Green Building Council, to name a few. Among our graduates, 37% work for the government, 37% work in the non-profit sector; and 26% work in the for-profit sector.

Admissions

ENRP accepts students from any discipline including the social and natural sciences, engineering, business, and the humanities. About a quarter of our students come directly from their undergraduate institution; the rest have a year or more of experience. The admissions cycle is flexible. Well-qualified applicants are considered at any time, although priority is given to applications received by April 1. Merit-based financial aid is also available.

Contact Us

To learn more about the Environmental Resource Policy Program, visit our website at www.columbian.gwu.edu/enrp or e-mail us at enrp@gwu.edu.